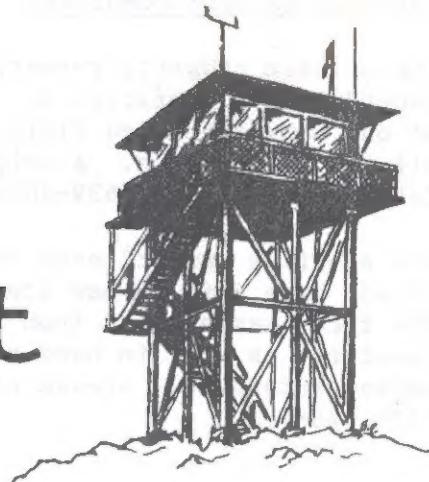


VOLUME VII ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 1970

100 PEAKS

Lookout



FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

-  1. The annual business meeting of the 100 Peaks Section falls on October 8 at the usual social meeting site (page 14 in the Schedule). Because of the importance of the decisions made each year, a large and active participation by HPS members is desirable. By-law changes, election of officers for 1971, additions and deletions to the peak list and an opportunity for your voice to be important in the affairs of the Section, make your attendance necessary.
2. Shirley and Dick Akawie, co-chairmen of the nominating committee, have secured the following members as candidates for next year's Central Committee: John Backus (incumbent), Paul Lipsohn (incumbent), Randy Bernard, Al Campbell, Joyce Davis, and Harold Johnson. All are active and involved members of the Section and have authorized their nomination.
- Nominations may be made from the floor on October 8 but must be seconded and have the verbal or written approval of the nominee. Six members will be elected and together with the current president (Vicki Duerr) will form the seven-member Central Committee for 1971. It is noted that the election is to name people -- the CC elects its own officers as their first order of business. The new group becomes active following the Annual Banquet on January 16.
3. We announce with regret that Jerry Russom has been forced to terminate his services as editor and publisher of the LOOKOUT, effective with this issue. Jerry, who has produced our publication for the past 2½ years, has retired from the L. A. Schools and has accepted a full-time job in San Francisco. He will be able to complete his term as Treasurer and Membership Chairman for the Section. Les Stockton and Bernie Petitjean as editor and publisher will carry on with the LOOKOUT until a permanent replacement can be found.
4. We welcome and congratulate new members

Alfred Blatz
Chuck Harmon

Donald Miller
William McPherson

MOUNTAIN RECORDS COMMITTEE

The private property research being conducted by John Sully and Henry Heusinkveld, should prove beneficial to both the hiking guide as well as an aid to the leaders of our many scheduled field activities. It will probably require a year to document all the information. A helping hand from Section members would be most appreciated. Telephones: John - 699-3054, Henry (714) 630-2123.

The scouting and write-up phase of the Hiking Guide Program is progressing at a steady pace with 19 new items, write-ups in process will bring our total to 157. The focus has shifted from the San Gabriels to the San Bernardino Mtns. The committee is most in need of a typist who has access to an electric typewriter. Anyone interested, please contact the chairman at your earliest convenience (376-6266).

Completed Hiking Guides

3 - A B D E I	16 - A B C D E F G H
4 - A	17 - A B
5 - A B C E F G H M N O	19 - A B C D F G H I
6 - A D E P Q	20 - B D E I
7 - A B C D E	21 - B E
8 - A B C D E	22 - C D G I
9 - A B C D E F G H I	23 - F G H I J K
10 - A B C E F G	24 - A B C D E F G I
11 - A B C D E F G H	25 - A B C D E F G H
12 - A B C D E F G H	26 - F J
13 - A B C D E F G H I J	27 - B N
14 - A B C D E F	28 - F
15 - A B C D E F G H	29 - A C D E
	31 - A B C D E F G H I J K L

When sending for these, enclose a legal size, self-addressed, stamped envelope along with 5 cents for each write-up.

The Hiking Guide - Vol. I is progressing well. The current activity is focused upon map preparation. We will need several willing volunteers, hopefully including one person with an electric typewriter. Most of the other material has been prepared and assembled, and awaits final check, before the paste-up operation.

I want to remind all Section members of the coming annual meeting. Refresh your memories of the eight exploratory trips scheduled during the past year, as you will be expected to vote for or against adding them to our official list.

Scodie Mtn.	- 7290'	Black Mtn. #5	- 7432'
Mayan Pk.	- 6105'	Split Mtn.	- 6800'+
Chuckwalla Mtn.	- 5006'	Sunday Pk.	- 8295'
Lightner Pk.	- 6433'	Bohna Pk.	- 6600'+
(Rerun from 69) Cache Pk. - 6608'			

Also, your vote as to possible deletions from our existing list. These would be those where conditions have changed since they were originally placed on the list.

~~10d. Barley Flats - Detention camp.~~ *ok*
~~21d. Lookout Pt. - Undefinable summit~~
~~7d. Sawmill Mtn. #2 - Insignificant summit.~~
~~Possibly others.~~

W. E. von PERTZ

SCHEDULE PREVIEW

November 7-8	Greenhorn & Morris Pk. Exploratory	Lipsohn, Herlihy
November 12	Idaho Primitive Area (Social)	Bob & Betty Loveland
November 14-15	Fox, McPherson	Campbell, White
November 21	Silver, Crafts	Akawie, Johnson
December 5	Bare Mtn.	Shedenhelm
December 6	Rabbit, Villager	Stockton, Ferrell
December 10	Mountain Memories (Social)	Bode
December 12-13	Rosa Exploratory, Queen, Quail	Lipsohn, Van Allen
January 9	Hildreth	Stockton, Lipsohn
January 16	Annual Banquet	
January 23-24	Winter Trip	Van Allen, Masson
January 30	Ortega Hill and Peak	Stockton, Ferrell
February 6	Santiago, Trail Maintenance	Collier, Von Pertz
February 7	Chaparrosa, Black #4	Backus, McRuer
February 11	Indian Country (Social)	Collier
February 13-14	Monte Arido, Old Man Mtn.	Hubbard, Smalley
February 20-21	Thorn Pt., Lockwood, San Guillermo	Petitjean, Hill
February 27-28	Josua Tree Rock Climb	Van Allen, Masson

CONSERVATION NOTES

Hundred Peakers have been among the most active of Angeles Chapter members, working to improve the Sierra Club as outings leaders, Conservation Committee workers, trail maintenance, etc. Recently, the impact of our outings has taken focus on limiting trip participation, increased number of outings, exploratory trips to new areas and new routes on old peaks, all intended on easing the pressure on areas overused by all hikers and climbers.

How can we as individuals become more involved in the conservation effort of the Chapter? We have been asked to assist in the survey of Big Horn Sheep in the local mouncains. Interested in lending a hand? Contact Dr. Charles Jenner (431-7531) for information. Our help has also been requested with reference to the boundary proposals for the Agua Tibia Wilderness Area and the preliminaries for the Prairie Fork Wilderness. If you have an interest in either area, contact Bruce Collier.

PROJECT FLASH can provide you with a time-saving method of expressing concern to public officials at critical times. Refer to page 6 of the current schedule for specifics.



The Conservation Committee is working to survey member skills and in this regard suggest that you complete the form on page 29-30 of the schedule. This will help them to coordinate an effective conservation program within the Chapter which can best utilize the member resources.

BRUCE COLLIER
Conservation Chairman

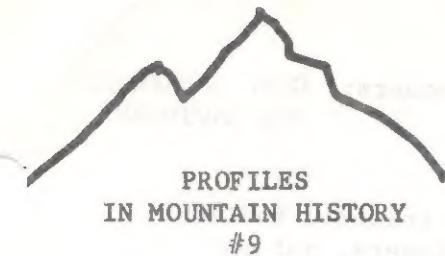
WANTED: MOUNTAIN PICTURES

John Robinson is presently completing work on an illustrated history of the western San Gabriel Mountains, to include more than 250 photographs. If any 100 Peak Section members have good quality pictures of any of the following subjects, the writer would appreciate borrowing them for possible inclusion in the book:

- Strawberry Peak - especially climbing photos.
- Switzer's Camp - especially with people in picture.
- Mt. Lowe Railway
- Any good scenery shots of the western San Gabriels.

If you have appropriate pictures, please contact John Robinson, 2700 Peterson Way, Apt. 12-7, Costa Mesa, California 92626.

There are now two listings of Mr. and Mrs. Van Allen on our membership roster. On Saturday, June 20, 1970, Donna Goff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Goff, Manhattan Beach, became Mrs. James Van Allen. Their first hike together was Ross Mtn. in November '66. They will be living near Sacramento where Jim is stationed at McClellan AFB.



PEAKS OF THE FRONT RANGE

PROFILES IN MOUNTAIN HISTORY #9

The Front Range of the San Gabriels rises abruptly from the Los Angeles Basin. While neither as lofty nor as lengthy as the main crest of the range, it is equally as rugged. After two days of scrambling up steep slopes and through thorny chaparral in 1877, John Muir called the front range "more rigidly inaccessible than any other I ever attempted to penetrate." This, of course, was in the days before the mountains were laced with paved highways, unpaved fire roads, trails, and fuel breaks. Nevertheless, anyone who takes leave of the man-made thoroughfares and attempts to scramble up unstable, brush-covered slopes will readily agree with Muir's viewpoint.

Following are the stories of four of the front range peaks - Occidental, Markham, San Gabriel, and Disappointment. Others will be covered in the next profile.

OCCIDENTAL PEAK (5730'): This forested high point is located near the western terminus of what was formerly known as Knifeblade Ridge. In early days it was known as Precipicio Peak, since it stood directly above Precipicio (later Eaton) Canyon. Around 1915 a group of Occidental students constructed a trail to the summit from Mt. Wilson. In recognition of their efforts, Angeles National Forest Supervisor, Rush Charlton, named the peak in honor of their school.

MT. MARKHAM (5752'): This mountain peak between Mt. Lowe and San Gabriel Peak was formerly known as "Square Top" or "Table Mountain." From Mt. Wilson its box-like summit is readily observable. In the 1890's, at the urging of Professor Lowe and other leading Pasadena citizens, it was named in honor of Henry H. Markham, prominent Pasadenaan and governor of California from 1891 to 1895.

SAN GABRIEL PEAK (6161'): When viewed from the Los Angeles Basin, this angular peak behind Mt. Lowe appears to dominate the front range. Wags at Switzer's Camp in the 1880's labelled it "The Commodore", in joking honor of C. P. Switzer's humorous title. Parties from Switzer's were first to climb the peak (about 1885) to enjoy its sweeping view of the surrounding mountains. In early Mt. Lowe literature, it was called "Observatory Peak", as Professor Lowe planned to extend his mountain railway to the summit and build there "the largest and best equipped astronomical observatory in the world." Needless to say, the observatory was never built (Lowe ran out of money first). In 1894, the U. S. Geological Survey used the summit as a triangulation point for mapping the range. As it appeared to be the highest peak in the front range of the San Gabriels (more recent surveys show Strawberry Peak to be 3 feet higher), the government surveyors gave it the name "San Gabriel Peak". In 1928, a fire lookout tower was built on the summit. It was removed in 1937 because observation was too often obstructed by urban-generated haze.

MT. DISAPPOINTMENT (5994'): In 1894, U.S.G.S. surveyors working eastward sighted this peak from Santa Susana Mountain west of San Fernando Valley. As it appeared to be the highest point in the immediate area, they planned to use it as their next triangulation point. Upon reaching the summit, they were "disappointed" to find San Gabriel Peak, one-half mile further east, 100 feet higher, so they continued to the latter summit to set up their instruments. In 1955, the summit was flattened for an Army Nike Missile station. Ten years later the station was abandoned, but the buildings remain.

Next Profile: Strawberry Peak, Josephine Peak, Mt. Lawlor.

PECHACHO, HIGH POINT
BOUCHER HILL, HOT SPRINGS

June 6-7, 1970

Leaders: GENE ANDREOSKI
BOB HAWTHORNE

Plans for this outing originated in February, 1963, when a very friendly Indian said we should come to the reservation in June to see the wildflowers, but in general, the display was below normal due to early rains followed by a long dry spell.

Highlight at Pechacho Peak was an after-lunch discourse by Chief Ponchetti of the Santa Ysabel Tribe. I'm sure we were all impressed by his intelligent presentation of their problems.

On High Point, two became eligible for membership and three were on their 100th peak. Ruth Smith made her 200th and headed for the list by climbing three more going home.

Boucher Hill was scheduled at 8 p.m. with a wild hope that a glorious sunset behind Santa Catalina Island would save the "drive-up" from being scratched from the list. Looking down on the layer of fog cloud advancing up the canyons was reminiscent of Hwy. 1 near Pt. Sur.

Sunday afternoon, nearing the end of the long road down Hot Springs Mountain, I was congratulating myself on a very successful outing despite several obstacles - early fire closure, drought, overcrowded camps, Indians on warpath--and WHAM! A dozen cars were lined up ahead. We were locked in the reservation by a heavy steel gate. We deserve to be massacred. Our grandparents drove their grandparents at gunpoint from their fertile valleys and now we covet their mountains. Soon after starting to walk down the road to plead with the Chief, along came the caravan. Someone had gone up the hill, snapped the lock, and finally returned with the key.

In spite of the delay, Bob Van Allen led a group to the Chimney Rock Ranch, obtained permission, and successfully climbed San Ysidro which should be included in the next outing to this area. Also for next time, we should arrange with the Indians to camp on their reservation.

BOB HAWTHORNE

NATIONAL PARKLANDS PASSPORT

The new Passport and the other annual permits will be valid until December 31, 1970. Any of them will afford admission to all areas of the National Park System: (1) for the purchaser and all those accompanying him in a non-commercial vehicle at areas where fees are charged on a vehicle basis; (2) for the purchaser and any members of his immediate family regardless of mode of park entry; and (3) for the purchaser only in a non-family group at areas commonly entered on foot and charging fees on a per person basis.

The 95-mile Allagash Wilderness Waterway in northern Maine was designated on July 19 as the first addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway begins at vast Telos and Chamberlain Lakes in upstate Maine and extends north to Churchill Lake. The main Allagash River begins with a roar and then slows down to form lakes and the cragged chute of Allagash Falls. Alternately calm and rapid, it then sweeps to the United States-Canadian boundary line.

GREENHORN EXPLORATORY
BLACK MTN., SPLIT MTN.,
SUNDAY PK., BOHNA PK.

Leaders: LIPSOHN
HERLIHY

June 13-14, 1970

Leaden skies and intermittent drizzles greeted us upon arrival at Greenhorn Mtn. Park on Saturday. The thunderclap announcing our arrival proved to be the parting salvo however, and we enjoyed clearing weather and blue skies for the remainder of the weekend. Fourteen hikers, including one nameless wretch, who, having left his boots at home, was forced to wear a borrowed pair, began the steep but short climb to Black Mtn. A nice trail winds through fir and cedars to a saddle, at which point we took off cross-country, circling behind the peak to reach the summit. Following a short refueling, we returned to the trail down a direct ridge and followed an old lumber trail along the main ridge to Split Mtn. The last two miles of this ridge are rather brushy and may cause some discomfort to those not weaned on Samon Pk. Most of the difficulty may be passed, however, by staying just below the ridge top on the south side. Lunch on top with spectacular views of the gorge between the peaks and Lake Isabella gleaming below, then retraced our route, reaching the cars about 5 p.m. A short drive placed us in Tiger Flat Campground for supper and a pleasant fire.

Sunday morning 13 survivors drove to the trailhead for Sunday Pk. and climbed along one of the most pleasing trails I have ever hiked. Fir, cedar, pines, and oak combine to make this a truly enjoyable trail. The view from the summit included the Mineral King area as well as the rolling eastern San Joaquin foothills. On our return we left the trail and climbed Portugese Peak (which, by virtue of lying entirely in Tulare County may help refute the peak-bagging and list-climbing argument). Lunch at the cars, then a hurried trip to Cedar Creek, where our nine survivors pitched in to police several hundred yards of debris-ridden creek, before charging up Bohna Pk. The leaders were pleased to note that the cairn built on their first ascent in a white-out was indeed on the summit.

One final snack on top, thence to the cars, with most meeting for supper in Glenville before the long drive home. Mileages were approximately 11/3500' for the first day and 10/3000' for the second.

All four peaks were well received by those on the trip, and are good candidates for inclusion on the list.

GRANITE MTN. #1, ROUNDTOP
IRON MTN. #3

July 18, 1970

Leader: SHEDENHELM

The most important fact learned in leading this basically downhill hike is that it is definitely not a summer hike. From Roundtop on there is no shade. Nineteen members and six guests met at the Monte Cristo Campgrounds (ex-Mill Creek Picnic Grounds) for a car shuttle to the junction of Roundtop Road and the Pacifico Road, for the start of an "easy peak bagging." True, we had bagged all three peaks by noon, but coming down the steep firebreak from Roundtop in the windless noon sun had felled two of the baggers a mile north of Iron's summit. This cancelled the quick and direct return down the west firebreak of Iron. As many had a blister or two from the hot downhill, we took the less steep alternate of picking up the stragglers at the Roundtop-Iron Saddle, where a spur fireroad starts, and heading down into Monte Cristo Canyon. A friendly chap at the Black Cargo Mine offered everyone shade and tepid water before the last two-mile drag back to the campground and cars. This is a very interesting hike, with excellent views of the San Gabriel Mountains, but save it for early spring or late fall.

MT. BADEN-POWELL LOOP

June 20, 1970

Leaders: VANSICKLE
CAIN

All went well in spite of the fact that the leader couldn't find the starting point of the hike at Little Jimmy Campground, scouted just four days prior. So the hike started at the dirt road to Little Jimmy. The hike was uneventful until the end at Vincent Gap where a few of the hikers, leader and assistant leader excluded, saw Marlon Brando and his children.

One participant of the hike turned back at Throop Peak, due to leg cramps, and went out the trail to Dawson Saddle and then hitched a ride to his car. Two other hikers accompanied him.

Several people commented that the pace of the hike was well regulated, for which I was thankful. However, in trying to uphold true Sierra Club leadership tradition, the leader assured everyone that the pace would have been faster if the leader had been in better shape.

CASTLE ROCKS
BLACK MTN.

August 15, 1970

Leaders: COLLIER
BODE, SR.

Thirty-six sunseeking smog-bound peakbaggers met at Vista Grande R. S. to caravan to the Fuller Ridge Trailhead. The trail has been opened to its junction with the Dark Canyon route and offers a new relatively brush-free method of climbing Castle Rock by an approach from the east. Rain began to fall as we left the trail and before the ridgeline was achieved, a true thunder and lightning storm confronted us. Rocks and brush provided temporary shelter to permit parkas and ponchos to emerge from packs. On to the summit, thirty-six signed in and a rapid descent on the forested ridge brought the trail and sun.

Lunch followed as the group reached the cars, despite leader threats to go on to Black before eating. He was outvoted 35 to 1.

Black Mountain Lookout greeted the group as Claude Walker broke the 17 year goal line - 100 peaks. A thirsty group toasted the occasion, as he added the HPS emblem to his prior DPS badge. The metal lookout seemed to attract the storm as lightning resumed and a hurried descent to the Boulder Basin C. G. ended the day. A highlight was the welcome return of Fred Bode, Sr. to peakbagging.

HELP WANTED

Ambitious individual to assist the HPS Central Committee in the project to name a peak after Weldon Heald. There is much information available but someone is needed to write letters, make contacts and generally fight bureaucratic red tape. The Central Committee feels it would be fitting to have a Southern California peak named after the founder of the Hundred Peaks Game. If you think it's a good idea too, and would like to contribute your time, please contact any member of the Central Committee.

SAN GORGONIO RIDGE + TWO

June 27-28, 1970

Leader: VAN ALLEN
LIPSOHN

The write-up in the schedule said this would be a strenuous trip. I believe all the participants would support that statement.

We met at 6 a.m., Saturday morning, at Camp Angelus to set up the car shuttle. Most people drove up Friday night. We moved to Poopout Hill and were hiking by 7:15. The group consisted of 15 backpackers plus one doing the first two peaks as a day hike. The trip to Slushy Meadow and Dry Lake was accomplished in easy style and short order. We dropped packs above Lodgepole Spring and climbed Grinnell and Lake. Descending from Lake we located out packs and proceeded to Mineshaft Saddle and then to the new trail to San Gorgonio. We arrived on the summit at 3 p.m. and spent an hour resting and having lunch.

At 4 p.m., we left for Jepson, climbed it and moved to start Dobbs at 5 p.m. The last one returned to the trail at 6:15. Shortly thereafter we left for Charlton, dropped our packs again and started up about 6:45. We returned, after a scenery-gawking stay on top, about 7:30. Picking up the packs for the last time we headed for High Meadow Spring and camp. We arrived at 8:15, some 13 hours after starting. In camp we located three more HPS'ers who had come up to join us for the second day. They had a fire going for us and hot water ready. It was a welcome sight to a group that could be classified as "bushed". All made it to camp in reasonable shape and 10 of the 15 made all 6 of the first day's peaks.

On Sunday we rose at 6 and left at 7 (now 18 of us) for Shields, Anderson, San Bernardino East and San Bernardino. On San Bernardino, we began lunch at 10 a.m. We figured this made up for eating lunch late the day before. At 10:45 we departed for Camp Angelus arriving at the trail head at 1:15. We moved down to the store and completed the car shuttle. All were back at the store having refreshments by 2:15.

Weather was perfect both days. Scouts were everywhere. There are many ways of doing this trip - perhaps we can figure out some way to include 10 K Ridge.

WRIGHT MTN., PINE MTN.,
DAWSON PK., MT. SAN ANTONIO

July 25, 1970

HPS Leader: LIPSOHN
PETITJEAN
Youth Leader: BUCK

Twenty-two hikers escaped the valley heat and met at Big Pine Station for our Devil's Backbone trip. A short caravan brought us to our trail-head and a rapid warm-up climb of Wright Mtn. Upon our return to the cars we were joined by four late-comers, and began the steep climb to Pine Mtn. After attaining the summit, we enjoyed a short break before continuing on to Dawson Peak and lunch. Six of the group went on to Mt. Baldy for a deferred lunch amidst a near throng of people - three separate groups which had come up from the ski tow.

Our return trip over Dawson and Pine was uneventful, and we regained the cars under gathering clouds to end an otherwise beautiful day.

The trip from Blue Ridge Rd. to Mt. Baldy and return was accomplished in exactly eight hours, for the benefit of those contemplating future trips.

FRIEND TO MAN AND WILDLIFE

When Spanish explorers entered the Southwest around 1500 A.D. they noted flat-topped hills and called them mesas, or tables.

They also found a squat, round tree growing on the hills that bore an edible nut. The tree resembled a pine. They called it pinon, or pine. Today the tree is known simply as pinon.

The early Spanish explorers didn't know it then, but the pinon pine covered thousands of square miles of open, arid lands throughout the West. *Pinus edulis*, as the botanist calls the pinon, has for centuries past furnished food and fuel to man, food and shelter to wildlife.

The wood of this tree makes excellent fuel for cooking and heating. The incense of its smoke spells enchantment and nostalgia on autumn evenings in Santa Fe and small villages throughout most of the Southwest where people still cook with wood. Memories of such scents, blended with the aromas of fresh chili, tortillas, and frijoles, haunt anyone who has savored them.

When young pinon trees begin to bear nuts, they may be 5 to 10 feet high, and 25 years old. At 75 years, the trees are big enough to produce nuts in commercial quantities. They grow principally at elevations of 5,000 to 7,000 feet. Adapted to the dry climate, they are long-lived and may continue to bear for hundreds of years. Old trees in good surroundings may grow to 75 feet and have a trunk diameter of 18 inches.

Harvesting

In September and October, usually after frost, the mature cones open and the nuts fall. The oldest and simplest method of harvesting is to pick the nuts off the ground by hand. Sometimes pickers spread canvas beneath a tree loaded with expanding cones. They shake the tree, gathering the loosened nuts on the canvas. This is a pitchy undertaking at best. In the end it is slower than picking nuts from the ground. Pinon trees are copious producers of pitch. The cones are particularly gooey.

Three successive growing seasons are necessary to produce mature cones, the New Mexico State University reports. Thus the pinion must have normal rainfall and other favorable conditions 3 years in a row to produce a good crop.

One of the advantages of the pinon nuts is their excellent keeping quality. Dry, unshelled nuts have been stored up to 3 years in New Mexico without turning rancid. Shelled nuts, however, turn rancid in 4 to 6 months. Apparently, the nut will not become rancid as long as the germ retains its vitality. The nuts require dry air for proper curing, and should not be shipped to humid climates unless they are to be eaten right away. Roasting the nuts improves their flavor, but shortens keeping time.

Roasting

The easiest way to roast the nuts is to place them unshelled in a cast iron frying pan over moderate heat on top of the stove. Don't try to roast too many at a time until you learn how. A cupful is a good start.

Let raw nuts heat, stirring gently and constantly, for about 5 or 6 minutes. Taste a few kernels. Compare their taste and looks with unroasted kernels. Remember that the shells hold heat for a time and thus continue the roasting process after you remove the nuts from the pan. Allow for this.

Roasting nuts in an oven is tricky. It is too easy to overdo it. Even Indians fail at this.

If you want to try gathering and roasting your own pinon nuts, keep your eyes and ears on the pinon jays - or watch for experienced gatherers along the roadsides.

Whatever you do, look upon the pinon tree as a friend. It clothes the weathered hills with softness, shelters wild animals against storms, feeds wildlife and humans with its rich nuts, warms the traveller before the fireplace, and cooks his meals. It corrals livestock and shores up mineshafts with its timbers.

As if that were not enough, this giant dwarf of the mesa lands sends its incense up the chimney at Christmastime to lend enchantment to the land of sagebrush and rimrock, to cheer the pinon jay through the snowy months, and to draw families together in traditions older than time.

CONTRIBUTED BY BARBARA LILLEY

A PRIZE POSSESSION

In my back porch hangs one of my loveliest possessions. Suspended from a twig of Elm tree is the nest of an Oriole. Daily, I gaze in awe at this wonderful thing; and if I were in doubt as to a Creator and Divine Mind, here is unquestionable Truth. The little bird, like man, has been given the ability to create, thereby providing himself with his needs. Over the twig are suspended three black hairs from the tail of a horse, the rest of the nest is woven and fastened to these three hairs. Visualize, if you can, the process for completion. The little bird must hang on to the branch with his feet; therefore, the feet are useless in his business of weaving, only his bill is left. Onto the three horse hairs he must weave the grasses, feathers, weeds, string, and other materials he chooses for use. What amazes me is how he holds in place the first material brought after the three hairs are draped over the branch.

Now you have two hands with ten fingers, and we will even allow you to use your teeth if necessary. Hang three pieces of thread over a stick, use anything you can find in or out of the house, and I defy you to come up with a nest remotely as well constructed as the one this little orange bunch of feathers has made.

LESLIE P. MERCER

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ARTICLES AND LETTERS - This publication is the official NEWSLETTER of the HPS and as such welcomes articles and letters pertaining to the activities of the Section. Typewritten, double-spaced copy should be sent to the Editor prior to the 15th of odd-numbered months.

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